



SIERRA COUNTY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SIERRA COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
2101 SOUTH BROADWAY
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NM 87901

2008 CROP YEAR BUY-IN FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

On June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) was enacted into Public Law. This Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. Those programs include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Program* (LIP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE); Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops. Therefore, for the 2008 crop year only, producers who were eligible to obtain at least CAT level crop insurance or NAP, but did not, can “buy-in” to be eligible to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs by paying the administrative fee that would have been applicable if the producer had timely applied for CAT or NAP.

The 2008 Act allows producers to pay a “buy-in fee” at their administrative county FSA office by the deadline date of **September 16, 2008**. The buy-in fees do not provide any CAT crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage but do allow producers to gain eligibility to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs.

Producers who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are not required to pay the buy-in fee. Please call the office for more information.

NAP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES

December 1 is the deadline to purchase 2009 NAP Coverage for **Lettuce and Honey**.

January 31 is the deadline to purchase 2009 NAP Coverage for **Alfalfa, Native Grass, Pecans, & Peppers**.

NAP REMINDER:

Production records for all crops covered by a NAP policy should be turned into the office as soon as harvest is complete. Failure to do so will result in a zero yield in your actual production history.

COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Patrick Garay, Chairman
Harvey Chatfield, Vice-Chairman
James Walker, Member
Dolores Ortega, COC Advisor

OFFICE STAFF:

Eduardo Flores, County Executive Director
Jordanna Gurule, Program Technician

COUNTY MEETINGS:

July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14,
November 18, December 9

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 8:00 am—4:30 pm
Closed Wednesday Afternoon 12:00 pm-4:30 pm
Phone # (575) 894-2563 Fax # (575) 894-2165

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DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments -- direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm.

The DCP sign-up period for the 2008 crop will end **September 30, 2008**. Annual sign-ups for the 2009-2010 crops are from October 1 of the prior calendar year to June 1. The CCC-509 form, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract," includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares, advance direct and counter-cyclical payment selections, and signatures of the producer and county office representative.

A certification of the acreage of all cropland on the farm (FSA-578) is needed before final payments can be issued. The deadline to submit acreage certifications is August 15, 2008. Please call the office and schedule an appointment to file acreage certifications and sign-up for the DCP program.

HOLIDAY

This office will be closed Monday October 13, 2008 in observance of Columbus Day.

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Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.